

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

OCTOBER 23, 2007

Two tragic events in recent years have reminded all of us of the importance of planning ahead for the worst-case disaster scenario: the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and Hurricane Katrina, 29th of August, 2005. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Board of Supervisors asked the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management to review the County Operational Area's readiness to respond to a major catastrophe such as the one suffered in the Gulf Coast. The report prepared in response to that inquiry found that the County was, in many ways, among the most prepared areas in the United States. However, it identified a lack of coordinated emergency management plans for the County's unincorporated communities as a major gap that must be closed if the County is to properly respond to a large-scale disaster such as a major wild fire or earthquake.

Long before Katrina, in April of 2000, the Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Unincorporated Area Services began to implement the County's Strategic Planning for Municipal Services for Unincorporated Areas. Topanga Canyon was chosen as the pilot location for Action Plan F, Emergency Management Planning for Unincorporated Areas, because this community of over 10,000 people is uniquely vulnerable to a fast-moving wildfire, an earthquake, floods, and landslides.

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Since that time, volunteer members of the community and representatives of numerous County and other governmental agencies have worked side by side on a joint task force to: 1) develop a comprehensive, Topanga-specific emergency management plan that addresses prevention, response and recovery in the Topanga Disaster Survival Guide; and, 2) facilitate improved coordination and communication between governmental agencies and the community as well as faster, more effective response by the Departments of Fire, Sheriff, Public Works and other critical first responders.

For the past four years, this task force has simultaneously worked to develop a planning guide that includes a number of best management practices laying out how the County and individual unincorporated communities can partner together to design more effective disaster preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery community-specific plans. Emergency Management in Unincorporated Areas: A Planning Guide (Planning Guide), was developed based on this County-community collaboration. The Planning Guide includes: 1) process-oriented best management practices; 2) specific tools to improve coordination between first-responders and between County departments, State agencies, and other levels of government; and, 3) internal operational plans for individual County departments. The Planning Guide can be utilized to develop community-specific emergency response, prevention and recovery plans in unincorporated areas countywide and was approved by the Emergency Management Council at its August 9, 2006 meeting.

Together with the County's other disaster planning efforts, the tools and best management practices developed by the Topanga Emergency Management Planning pilot project form a critical foundation upon which the County should continue to work at

closing the emergency preparedness gap in its unincorporated areas.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Emergency Management in Unincorporated Areas: A Planning Guide for Los Angeles County

Operational Area Emergency Management in Unincorporated Areas and upon execution by the Board of Supervisors, send an adopted, signed copy of this action to the Office of Emergency Management at 1275 North Eastern Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90063.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with the Office of Unincorporated Area Services and the Board offices coordinate a Workgroup minimally comprised of the following departments: Sheriff, Animal Care and Control, Fire, Mental Health, Public Health, Public Social Services, and Public Works to identify and develop a priority list of unincorporated areas for which community-specific emergency management plans will be developed that address response, prevention, and recovery. The Workgroup will further identify necessary resource requirements, funding options and tasks required to provide the community-specific emergency management plans for the unincorporated areas and will provide a report back to the Board within 90 days.